



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2008

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

Contact: Kristen Tikonoff
(617) 626-1809
Lisa Capone
(617) 626-1119

EEA Secretary Bowles Recognizes 23 Bay State Schools for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education

BOSTON – Schools that go the extra mile to teach students about energy and the environment were honored today with the 14th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education.

At a State House ceremony, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles presented awards ranging from \$100 to \$500 to 23 schools. Two non-profit organizations were also recognized with Certificates of Honor. Funded through the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the Commonwealth's Clean Environment Fund, the awards are intended to fund further environmental education initiatives at the schools.

"Today provides an opportunity to formally recognize and thank teachers, students and non-profit environmental educators for raising awareness about a variety of energy and environmental issues," Secretary Bowles said. "These schools and teachers are going above and beyond curriculum requirements, acting locally to make a difference in protecting our planet while fostering the next generation of environmental stewards."

Classroom awards went to teachers and students from Amherst, Athol-Royalston, Barre, Berlin, Brockton, Cambridge, Charlton, Danvers, Franklin, Holden, Lexington, Monson, New Bedford, Norwell, Peabody, Pepperell, Plymouth, Springfield, Sudbury, Taunton, Warwick and West Springfield. The city of Taunton picked up double recognition, with awards going to the Friedman Middle School and the Martin Middle School. In addition, awards went to non-profit organizations in Barnstable and Holyoke. (A complete list of awardees is below.)

EEA solicited Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Award nominations from late 2007 until last month. Schools and organizations that voluntarily incorporate environmental education into public or private school curricula are eligible. The Secretary's Advisory Group on

Energy and Environmental Education - comprised of environmental educators from state agencies, non-profits, industry and academia - scored the project applications.

14th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education

Municipality:

School/Program

AMHERST:

Wildwood Elementary School in partnership with
Harvard Forest
"Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology"
Teacher Michael Silverstone

ATHOL-ROYALSTON:

Athol-Royalston Middle School in partnership
with Harvard Forest
"Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology"
Teacher Judi Miller

BARNSTABLE:

Cape Cod Groundwater Guardians
"Wet and Wild Water Festivals" and "Project Tour"
Teacher Gabrielle Belfit

BARRE

Quabbin Regional High School:
"Envirothon Team's Energy Expo"
Teacher Rebecca Bottomley

BERLIN

Berlin Memorial School
"EIC Model"

BROCKTON:

Brockton High School
"Ecology Class, 11th and 12th grades"
Teacher Eleri Merrikin

CAMBRIDGE:

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
"Global Community Project: The Climate Change Year"
Teacher Sara Colby

CHARLTON

Charlton Middle School
"The Green Club"
Teacher Erin Anderson

**DANVERS
(Hathorne)**

Essex Agricultural & Technical High School
"Environmental Science & Technology Program"
Charles Saulnier, Department Head and Instructor

FRANKLIN

Remington Middle School Titans Team
"Energy Conservation Public Service Campaign"
Teacher Laura Chiaravalloti

HOLDEN

Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School/Wachusett Regional

School District
“Mayo Forest Rangers”
Teacher Jennifer Leith

HOLYOKE

Lean on Me Family Center, Inc
“Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Project” and “Holyoke
Environmental Action Team”
Director Yvonne Garcia

LEXINGTON

Lexington High School
“Alternative Energy and Carbon Footprint Projects”
Steven Wilkins and the Members of Envirothon Science Team

MONSON:

Monson High School
Envirothon Team “Environmental Action Team”

NEW BEDFORD:

Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech High School
Environmental Science and Technology Students
“Atlantic White Cedar Swamp Restoration Project”
Teachers Christopher Pires and Lawrence Carlesi

NORWELL

Grace Farrar Cole School
“The Hatch Pond Education Center”

PEABODY

Captain Samuel Brown School
“Energy Awareness and Action”
5th Grade Teachers Diane Bugler, Joanne Campbell and Ed Fouhey

PEPPERELL

Nissitissit Middle School
“Grade 7 Life Science”
Teacher William Pineda

PLYMOUTH

Plymouth Public Schools, District-wide
“Energy Management and Education Program”

ROYALSTON

See Athol-Royalston

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Central High School
“Envirothon Team”
Teacher/Coach Naomi Volain

SUDBURY

Curtis Middle School
“Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project”
Teacher Paula Feynman

TAUNTON

Friedman Middle School
“Gang Green” Student Group
Matt Stellar, Energy Manager and

Principal John Cabral

TAUNTON

Martin Middle School

“Student Energy Managers”

Joe Prioli, Matt Stellar and Principal Chris Baratta

WARWICK

Warwick Community School

“Sustainability Initiative”

WEST SPRINGFIELD:

West Springfield Middle School

“Schoolyard Ecology”

Teacher Jessica Greene

###